

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – Special Meeting – April 13, 2017

MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were First Selectman Don Stein, Selectmen Ray Pech and Mark Hemenway. Also present were Peter Bakker, Recreation Commission Chairman, Donna Bastrzycki, Recreation Director, Francine Beland, Assessor, Holly Krouse, Town Clerk and Terri Collins, Tax Collector.

No Delegations or other members of the public were present.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2017 special meeting. A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously (Mark Hemenway abstained) to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2017 special meeting.

No tax refunds were received from the Tax Collector.

MOTION: On a motion by Mark Hemenway, seconded by Ray Pech, and passed with 2 yes votes (Mark and Ray), and 1 abstention (Don), the Selectmen approved the annual expenditures for the Recreation Commission, based on a summer camp enrollment of 30 campers. The one change to the budget as presented was the deletion of the \$1,000 stipend for the Recreation Director in the Recreation budget, which would have increased her salary from the \$10,300 in the Town budget to a total of \$11,300. There was extensive discussion on this stipend and whether it was merited or appropriate, since no other town employees receive income outside of the normal budgeting process. The two Selectmen who voted to delete it felt that the regular salary was appropriate for the position and did not feel that any additional funds should be allocated from the Rec budget in light of the declining balance in that account and the decreasing number of campers. This issue will be revisited next year when the Rec budget and the success of the camp this year can be assessed.

DISCUSSION: Don Stein informed the Selectmen that there was no new information on the status of the State budget and that the Board of Finance was presenting the General Government and capital budgets as previously discussed, with a few minor changes resulting from specific requests from agencies that had previously been estimated due to a lack of input. The Selectmen's budget increase is at 1.07% and the estimated tax increase to the Town at this time is 3.57% based on all of the inputs including a \$40,000 decrease in Regional 7's

assessment to the Town.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ray Pech, seconded by Mark Hemenway, and passed unanimously to appoint Cynthia Williams as the Town's Municipal Agent for the Elderly for a 4-year term starting March 1, 2017. This is a continuation of this role for her, as she has filled this role for the past several years.

DISCUSSION: The Selectmen agreed that they would include the easement on the Town Meeting agenda, pending approval of the PZC, for the property adjacent to the school playground and the backyard of Peter and Sarah Ferraresso. The sale of this 0.06 acre piece had been previously approved, but Planning & Zoning rejected the sale. Mr. Ferraresso is also considering if he is interested in an easement. The PZC will consider granting an easement for purpose of constructing a fence at their next meeting, and if approved and agreed-to by the Ferraresso's, the Selectmen will place this item before the Town.

The Selectmen also agreed that they would include a new ordinance regarding the distribution of newspaper advertisements by throwing them on the ground or a homeowner's driveway. This would allow the Town to penalize those companies who continue to litter in this manner.

No executive session was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM on a motion by Mark Hemenway, and seconded by Ray Pech.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein
First Selectman